



OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH

BULLA, CLARKEFIELD, DIGGERS REST, SUNBURY



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17th April 2011 PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

Mass times this week

Sat 6.00pm St Anne's
Sun 8.30am St Anne's
10.30am St Anne's
5.30pm Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Mon 9.15am Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion

Tues 7.00pm Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

Weds 9.15am St Anne's Church

Thurs 9.15am St Anne's Church

Fri 9.15am St Anne's Church

Sat 8.30am St Anne's Church

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 10.00am—10.30am O.L.M.C.
Church

READINGS NEXT WEEK

1st Acts 10:34, 37-43

2nd Colossians 3:1-4

3rd John 20:1-9

CALL FOR PRO LIFE

VOLUNTEERS

Pregnancy Counselling Australia runs a 24/7 telephone counselling for pregnant women in crisis, providing compassionate, non-judgemental support. Volunteer counsellors are needed. For more info. call Tahlia—9740 7378.

PROJECT COMPASSION

Your donation allows Caritas Australia to alleviate poverty and bring hope and justice to disadvantaged communities throughout the world.

SPECIAL COLLECTION GOOD FRIDAY FOR THE HOLY LAND

Your donation will provide financial assistance to schools, medical centres, parishes, orphanages and welfare projects.

BAPTISM AND EASTER

At the Easter Vigil liturgy in our parish two adult converts to our faith will walk into the waters of the Baptismal Font. Three times they will place their heads under water and three times they will come up for air. The immersing of an adult or an infant (partial) three times into the waters of baptism is the most significant symbol in the entire ceremony of baptism. The action is accompanied by the words of the minister, 'I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.' The triple immersing into the water and the words that accompany the action suggest that the baptised is brought into the life of the Blessed Trinity. Indeed, that is so. But, according to St Paul, the symbolic gesture of the triple going into the water is also associated with the three days that Jesus lay buried in the tomb. Here are the words of St Paul: 'Do you not know that all of us who have been baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? Therefore, we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.' (Romans 6:3-4)

We all know that water is the source of life. Of all the planets in our solar system Earth is the only one that can sustain plant and animal life. Our forests, grasslands, birds, reptiles, insects, mammals and humans not to mention the abundant life in the depths of the oceans, seas and lakes, all are testament to the power of water to give life. But, as we all know, water can also bring death and destruction. Think of the drownings at sea, the recent floods across our continent, and the destructive force of tidal waves and tsunamis, and you will agree that water has power not only to give life but also to inflict death.

The descent of the Catechumen down three steps into the waters of the font is symbolic of Christ descending into the tomb where he is buried and lies in death. The ascent of the Catechumen out of the baptismal waters and up the three steps is symbolic of Christ's resurrection on the Third day.

The pouring of water over the Catechumen's head at baptism does not capture the drama which the baptismal ritual intends. But when you see a person take a deep breath and go under water and come up for air three times, then you will understand that baptism is a death to sin and a rising to a new life in the Spirit. The baptised person identifies with Jesus dying to take away sin, lying dead to sin for three days in the tomb and rising to a new life. That is why Baptism is intimately connected with the Paschal Mystery culminating with the feast of Christ's resurrection at Easter. Every Sunday is a 'little Easter' and most baptisms are celebrated on the Sunday, even though any other day will do.

At Easter it is customary for all the faithful to renew their baptismal vows rejecting Satan, his empty promises and the ways of sin. Easter and Baptism are intimately linked. It is with great joy that at Easter, every Christian is encouraged to 'walk in newness of life.' As children of the light we hold up our lighted tapers as we renew our vows pledging to keep the flame of faith alive in our hearts.

Fr Bert Fulbrook sdb

GOSPEL ACCOUNTS OF THE PASSION AND POPE BENEDICT XVI

In his latest book, 'Jesus of Nazareth: Holy Week', the Pope writes 'who exactly were Jesus' accusers'? When John's Gospel simply uses 'the Jews' it is not the people of Israel in general, but a limited number of 'the Temple aristocracy' as Jesus and all his followers were Jews.

This book of the Pope has been greatly welcomed by the Israeli premier and Jews around the world. They see the Pope's book following the teaching Vatican II (1965) which removed the taint of collective responsibility for the death of Jesus from the Jewish people. The book also has theological reasons why Christians should not seek the conversion of the Jews.

As Dr Jonathan Gorsky of London said 'we Jews should recognise we have friends in the Catholic Church and then see what mutually we can give to the world around us'. Hence next Sunday when we hear Matthew's account and on Good Friday John's account, we need like the Pope to not take the words literally at their face value but interpret them as Pope Benedict does, albeit in his case at a very deep theological level. There is no place for anti-Semitism in the Christian.

EASTER TRIDUUM (three days) ONE STORY, THREE EPISODES

Easter is like a television mini-series in which the story develops over three episodes. Like a play of three acts,

Easter begins on Holy Thursday evening at 7.30pm with the commemoration of the Last Supper, continues through the memorial of the death of Jesus on Good Friday at 3.00pm and concludes with the celebration of Jesus risen from the dead on Saturday evening at 7.30pm. Naturally, we are called to be together celebrating all three episodes.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING

A reflection evening of prayer and fellowship with other men who are discerning a vocation to the priesthood, will be held on 29 May.

Enquiries: 9926 5733.

RCIA—EASTER VIGIL SUPPER

On Saturday 23 April we will celebrate the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist with our Elect—Michelle Walker, Michael Monahan and Alex & Roslina Yala as they come to full communion with the Catholic Church. After the Vigil we will share supper with them and their families in the Parish Centre. You are all invited to join us in congratulating them and celebrating Easter as a parish community. Please bring a plate of food to share.

ECUMENICAL GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

The Christian Churches of Sunbury have again arranged an Interdenominational Good Friday Service to be held on the Village Green commencing at 10.00am. Traditionally there has been a great spirit of Christian unity associated with this service, as members from all the Sunbury Christian Churches gather together in remembrance of the sacrifice made by Jesus some 2000 years ago for our salvation. All parishioners are encouraged to attend and to afterwards enjoy a cuppa and hot cross bun with fellow Christians.

Volunteers are needed to set up on Thursday afternoon.

NEWS FROM PARISH SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP

Navi Pillay, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, will visit Australia in May. Last year Aboriginal Elders visited Geneva to raise the Northern Territory Intervention with the Commission. The intervention imposed in June 2007 without consultation, continues to be a source of grave injustice. You can help by signing a letter requesting Navi Pillay to address this issue. Copies from www.concernedaustralians.com.au or at Welcoming Desk. Also at Welcoming Desk copies of 'New Detention Centre—a hard-hearted response: Bishop'; Pope Benedict's World Peace Day Message—The Path to Peace; Feast Day Mass of St Joseph the Worker—all workers are invited.

JOURNEY TOGETHER

This is a series of five meetings beginning next month. The gatherings in homes follow the method of 'see, judge, act' - looking at our world, judging life in the light of the Bible and resolving some action. In the recent exhortation 'Verbum Domini' (Latin for 'Word of the Lord') Pope Benedict and 250 bishops gathered in a synod express their hope for 'a new season of greater love for the sacred Scripture on the part of every member of the People of God' (par. 72).

CATHOLIC DOCTORS WARN OF ALCOHOL & DRUGS DAMAGING YOUTH

Dr Clare Walker, president of the Catholic Medical Association (U.K.) has warned drugs are responsible for a huge rise in mental illness among young people and the problem is not being properly addressed. 'The quintupling of intractable depression rates in young adulthood after a history of taking cannabis or certain other illicit drugs is still not publicised'. She pointed to studies which show that teenagers who drink alcohol regularly are more likely to suffer from depression.

CATHOLIC MISSION VOLUNTEERS

for 50 years, lay Catholic missionaries from Australia have been sent through Palms Global Mission program. There is enormous potential to serve and learn in such communities. Experienced teachers, medical staff, farmers and tradespeople are needed in Africa, Timor and the Pacific.

Placements start from July 2011. Enquiries: www.palms.org.au

THE CONTEMPLATIVE PARISH

A 2-day program by Catholic Education Office to explore our Christian contemplative practices and foster opportunities for contemplative prayer in parish life. Dates: 4 May and 27 October from 10.00am to 3.30pm at 362 Albert Street, East Melbourne. Application forms in Parish Office.

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL SCHOOL RECOGNITION CEREMONY

Maria Vamvakinou M.H.R. will officially open the new school building mostly funded by the Federal Government's 'Building the Education Revolution' Grant, on 5 May at 11.00am.

CONFERENCE IN LONDON ON CHRISTIAN—MUSLIM RELATIONS

last month, key thinkers at a two-day conference saw as a basis for unity, the common belief of Christians, Jews and Muslims that God erupts into human history. From this basis, we can build towards a recognition of the centrality and sanctity of the human person as a seeker of God, and neutralise ideologies that aim to sideline religion or promote violence and intolerance.

We can also work towards a recognition of religious freedom as the first of human rights. Christians and Muslims, who together make up 54% of the world's population, have the common task of helping society open itself up again to God.

CATHOLIC CARE

75th Anniversary Gala Ball Thursday 19 May at Plaza Ballroom, 191 Collins St. Melbourne. Time: 6.30pm for 7.00pm. Dress: Formal (with a touch of swinging 30's). Tickets: \$200 per person. All proceeds raised from the evening will be directed towards CatholicCare's Alcohol and other Drug Family Service. Further info. 9287 5517.

CatholicCare is the new name for Centacare Catholic Family Services, formerly called Catholic Family Welfare Bureau established in 1948.

SOUTHERN CROSS CARE

Established in 1969 and sponsored by the Knights of the Southern Cross, Southern Cross Care is a community-based program of aged care guided by a Christian ethos caring for 5,300 aged Victorians. Enquiries about services and packages—9244 0900 or www.southerncross.org.au

LIVE IN SUNBURY: VICTORIA WELSH CHOIR

Presented by Sunbury Chaplaincy Committee. Sunday 1 May at St Andrew's Uniting Church. **A GREAT MOTHERS' DAY GIFT IDEA.** Adults \$25, children (under 18) \$5. Bookings essential—tickets from Just Planet 37 O'Shanassy St. Sunbury (9740 3106) or ring Helen—9744 3031.

Flyer on noticeboard. Plates of food needed for afternoon tea, i.e. sandwiches, savoury, cakes (small /large). Please write your name & phone number on list on noticeboard OR ring the Parish Office—9744 1060.

OUR 2011 HOLY WEEK—EASTER TRIDUUM PROGRAM

TUESDAY

Tue 11.00am Chrism Mass at Cathedral.
Tue 3.00pm Mass and Anointing of the Sick at Goonawarra Aged Facility (Communion Ministers and friends are invited)

THURSDAY

Thu 7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper, including Washing of feet/hands and contemplative prayer in the Chapel to 10.00pm.

FRIDAY

Fri 9.00am Way of the Cross—all texts are from the Sacred Scripture. (We walk around O.L.M.C. Church)
Fri 10.00am Combined Christian Good Friday Service on Village Green or in St Andrew's Church (depending on weather) Fr. Kevin is leading some prayers.
Fri 3.00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion with Veneration of the Cross. We celebrate Christ's victory—'by dying he has destroyed our death'.

SATURDAY

Sat 10.00am Sacrament of Reconciliation at O.L.M.C.
Sat 11.00am Preparatory Rites of Baptism for Catechumens at St Anne's Church
Sat 11.30am Rehearsal for Easter Vigil
Sat 7.30pm Mass of the Easter Vigil : Blessing of the fire, Baptisms and Renewal of our Baptism Promises.

SUNDAY

Sun 8.30am & 10.30am Mass of Easter—St Anne's Church
Sun 5.30pm Mass of Easter—O.L.M.C.

MONDAY (ANZAC Day)

Mon 9.00am Mass for Anzac Day—St Anne's Church
Mon 10.00am Commemorative Service and Prayers at the Memorial on Village Green